

OCT 10 2001

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13 MS. LARSON: I would like to read the

14 testimony from Governor Guinn's --

15 MR. LUPTON: Can you come forward so the

16 court reporter can capture that?

17 And you need to sign in if you want to make a

18 statement for the record. Helps us keep track of the

19 official transcripts.

20 Please identify yourself before you begin.

21 MS. LARSON: Josie Larson, director of White

22 Pine County Nuclear Waste Office. I'm going to be

23 reading the testimony of Governor Guinn's comments

24 during the September 5th public hearing in Las Vegas.

25 Good evening.

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1 On behalf of the citizens of the State of

2 Nevada I would like to welcome you here this evening and

3 hope my remarks and the remarks of the many concerned

4 Nevadans who will speak later will be taken in the

5 spirit in which they were intended. That is, honest,

6 constructive, and impassioned public input on an issue

7 that is paramount to the health and safety of every

8 Nevadan and every American whose home, school or place

9 of business sits along the proposed paths that the
10 deadliest substance on earth, if the DOE has its way,
11 will take to Nevada.

12 This debate is not new. As many of you know,
13 Nevada's fight to keep the nuclear waste repository from
14 coming to Yucca Mountain has raged on for nearly 20
15 years. Unlike many of the policy battles that grip
16 Washington, however, this fight transcends party
17 affiliation, socioeconomic classes, race or gender and
18 galvanizes Nevadans from every corner of this state in
19 opposition.

20 Though the debate is not new, I must say that
21 recent developments -- those that bring us here tonight
22 -- are quite alarming and raise a number of new
23 concerns.

24 The very purpose for this meeting is in
25 question. You have invited me and many good people here

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1 tonight so you and the Department of Energy can gather
2 public comment on scientific evidence that is not
3 complete and has not been made public. Public comment
4 in the absence of this all important evidence is
5 premature and grossly irresponsible.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the way we
7 do business in Nevada, and certainly this is not the way
8 the government should handle its affairs.

9 I am very disappointed that you have chosen
10 to disregard essentially all of my office's
11 recommendations and decided to hold these meetings
12 prematurely and over our reasonable objections.

13 We in Nevada will not stand for it.

14 Therefore, I would strongly advise and today
15 formally request you schedule additional hearings over
16 the course of the coming months across Nevada to give
17 our citizens and their elected leaders a fair and
18 appropriate chance to respond to your completed
19 findings.

20 And I assure you my outrage at the lack of
21 protocol that has permeated this process will be
22 detailed in letters directly to Secretary Abraham and
23 the President.

24 It is my sincerest hope that you recognize
25 this error and your duty to correct it.

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YUCCA MOUNTAIN 10/10/01

1 I don't have to remind anyone here today that

2 it was not long ago that Nevadans and all Americans were

3 assured that nuclear testing was safe.

4 It was less than 50 years ago.

5 Since that time, the DOE admitted that the

6 aftermath of testing of the hydrogen bomb at Yucca flats

7 caused innocent Americans to die and that cancer

8 benefits should be paid to the families of the dozens of

9 men and women who were contaminated by the fallout from

10 nuclear testing.

11 I am not talking about casualties of war in

12 some distant country.

13 I am talking about the small farmers in

14 neighboring Utah who tragically suffered from

15 contaminated nuclear air.

16 I am talking about the Nevada workers and

17 their families who took the government at its word and

18 trudged to and from the test site every day with

19 assurances that they were not in harm's way.

20 And I am talking about generations of

21 patriotic American families financially wiped out

22 fighting cancer while they awaited some word of

23 admission or assistance from their government.

24 The DOE, pathetically, only made that

25 admission just a few years ago and it came only after

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1 years of denial and government red tape.

2 And just yesterday we learned for the first
3 time that germ warfare testing -- imagine, germ warfare
4 testing -- was conducted at the same test site without
5 any knowledge whatsoever by our own congressional
6 delegation or my office.

7 With a track record like this, it is no
8 wonder the Department of Energy lacks credibility, not
9 only in Nevada, but also in our neighboring states.

10 Given the history, I trust you can understand
11 why I view this proceeding as morally illegal, if not
12 technically so.

13 It violates everything we believe in as
14 Americans. It duplicates all that was wrong in the past
15 and gives credence to the mistrust and cynicism harbored
16 by so many of our people.

17 Our concerns are clear. This wonderful state
18 has been ignored for far too long. We demand fairness
19 and we demand accountability in this process. We will
20 not sit idly by and let the Department of Energy run
21 roughshod over our citizens with empty promises and bad

22 science.

23 We did it once, in good faith, as proud and
24 loyal Americans. But sadly, we did not get back what we
25 gave, and so we have learned from the past, and we are

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1 not about to repeat it.